Estimated loss of crops and people in Bihar due to floods

1686. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated loss caused to the farmers, standing crops and people of Bihar due to recent heavy floods;

(b) whether any relief has been given to the flood affected people and if so, to whom and how much and the details thereof, District-wise and

(c) the number of houses of poor people that have been damaged and is there any proposal to construct new houses for them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) to (c) According to the memorandum submitted by the Government of Bihar for floods of 2007, 16.40 lakh hectares of cropped area & about 5.12 lakh houses have been damaged, besides loss of 510 human lives and 559 cattle heads in 9939 villages covering 20 districts.

In the wake of natural calamities, the concerned State Governments are primarily responsible to distribute relief on ground. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing financial and logistic support. A Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) has been constituted for such State based on the recommendations of the successive Finance Commissions. The corpus of CRF is contributed by the Government of India and the State Government in the ratio of 75:25. The Central Share is released in two equal installment — first in June and second in December. Additional Central Assistance is also provided in the wake of a calamity of severe nature from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF), after following the laid-down procedure.

The State Government had undertaken rescue and relief operations in the affected areas which include operation of relief camps and providing essential commodities viz. air dropped 71000 readymade food packets weighing 355 tons, distributed about 58000 MT wheat & rice as well as 10559 quintals of dry ration (Chura, sattu, salt, etc), 2 lakh pieces of candles, 1.50 lakh match-boxes and 2.63 lakh polythene sheets. In addition, Rs 3231.00 lakh was also reportedly distributed as cash doles.

Bihar has been allocated an amount of Rs. 157.74 crore in CRF for the year 2007-08 consisting of Rs. 118.31 crore as Central contribution and Rs. 39.43 crore as State contribution. Both the installments of Central share of CRF amounting of Rs. 59.155 crore each, have been released to the State Government, including advance release of 2nd installment of Central share. In addition, an amount of Rs. 114.92 crore has also been released as pending Central share of CRF for the year 2006-07.

Based on the request of the State Government, the Government of India made additional allocation of 2.00 lakh MT of rice & 1.00 lakh MT of wheat & 10,000 KL of kerosene oil to Bihar. Transportation of fodder by rail from Punjab to the affected districts in Bihar was also organized by Government of India at no cost to the State Government.

According to its memorandum, the State Government has proposed to construct 4.8 lakh houses under the Scheme of Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) for those Below Poverty Line (BPL) families whose houses have been damaged during the floods of 2007.